



Welcome

to the Public Hearing for the

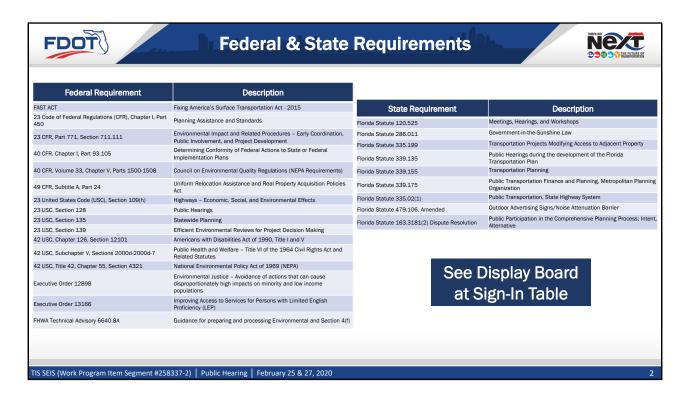
Tampa Interstate Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

I-275 (SR 93) from the Howard Frankland Bridge to north of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) and I-4 (SR 400) from I-275 (SR 93) to east of 50th Street (US 41)

Work Program Item Segment #258337-2

February 25 & 27, 2020

The Florida Department of Transportation (or F-D-O-T) welcomes you to the Public Hearing for the Tampa Interstate Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which encompasses improvements to Interstate 275 <two seventy-five> (or I-275) from the Howard Frankland Bridge to north of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Interstate 4 <four> (or I-4) from I-275 to east of 50th Street.



The meeting is being conducted to provide interested citizens an opportunity to ask questions and to offer comments about the Recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (or L-P-A) being proposed for this project.

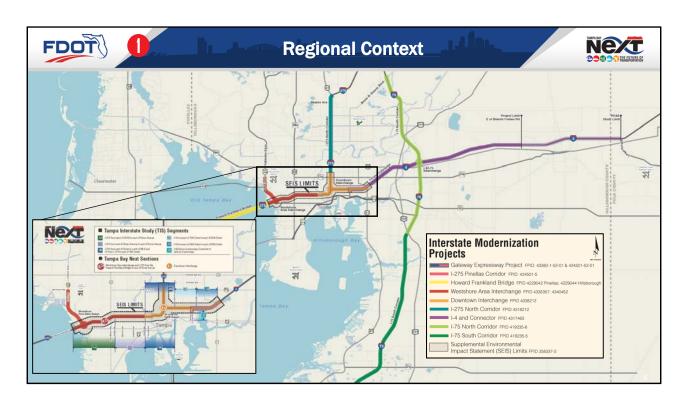
This study satisfies requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA <neepa>, and other applicable policies, regulations, and procedures.

For a full list of federal and state requirements, please see the citation board located at the sign-in table.

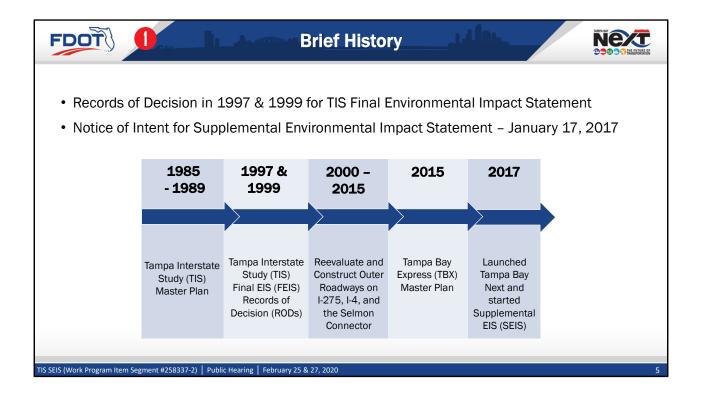


We have a lot of information on display tonight. To help you navigate our public hearing, we divided the room into five stations. Each station has a corresponding number and color. At the top left corner of each slide, there is a reference to one of the five stations.

Not only do we have printed exhibits and physical documents available for review, we also have smartboards and TVs to help you visualize the proposed improvements. FDOT representatives are here tonight to help walk you through the stations and explain all of the information.



The project presented tonight – the Tampa Interstate Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (or T-I-S S-E-I-S) – is part of Tampa Bay Next, a program to modernize our region's transportation infrastructure and prepare it for the future. The program incorporates improvements to our region's interstate system with opportunities to integrate transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The hearing tonight covers Tampa Bay Next Sections 4, 5, and 6 or Segments 1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B of the T-I-S S-E-I-S.



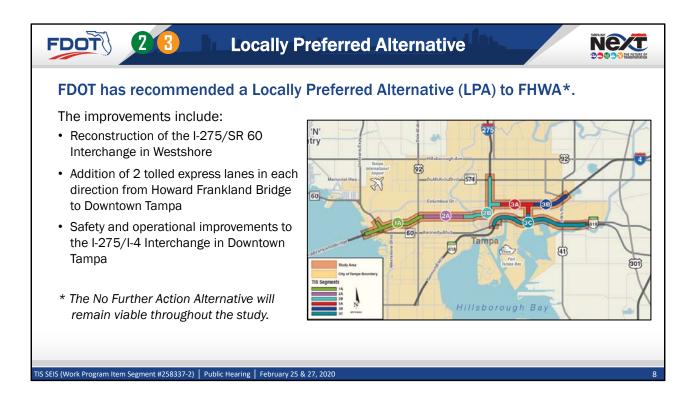
The T-I-S started back in the late 1980s with a master plan that led to the development of the 1996 Final Environmental Impact Statement (or F-E-I-S). The Federal Highway Administration issued an original Record of Decision in 1997 and an amended Record of Decision in 1999. Some of the project has been built, including the widening of I-275 in West Tampa, the widening of I-4 in East Tampa/Ybor <eebor>, and the I-4/Selmon Expressway Connector. In 2015, the F-D-O-T completed the feasibility study of tolled express lanes on Tampa Bay interstates. The T-I-S-S-E-I-S was launched in 2017 when the Federal Highway Administration published the Notice of Intent for the study.



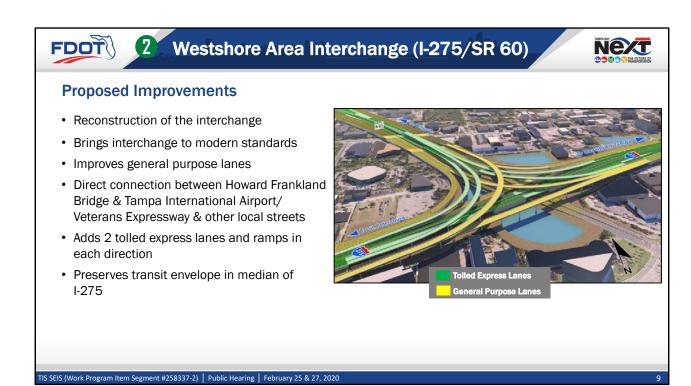
The purpose of the T-I-S S-E-I-S is to identify how to best upgrade the safety and efficiency of the existing I-275 <two seventy-five> and I-4 <four> corridors that service the Tampa Bay region, while maintaining access to the local community. The full purpose and need statement is available on the project website and is summarized in the Draft S-E-I-S.



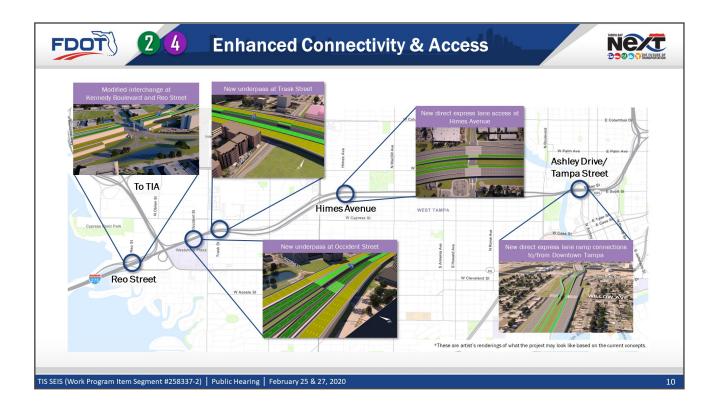
Since the S-E-I-S kicked off in 2017, FDOT hosted public workshops in October 2017 and May 2019 and has presented to numerous local organizations throughout the project area. Based on public input received and evaluation of potential effects of proposed alternatives, F-D-O-T is recommending a Locally Preferred Alternative (or L-P-A) that is being presented at tonight's hearing. On January 27, 2020, the Federal Highway Administration signed the Draft S-E-I-S to be released for public comment in the federal register.



The L-P-A includes the full reconstruction of the Westshore Area Interchange that will include tolled express lanes and general purpose lanes, the addition of tolled express lanes and general purpose lanes along the I-275 <two seventy-five> corridor connecting the Howard Frankland Bridge and Westshore area to Downtown Tampa, and improvements to the Downtown Tampa Interchange that will enhance safety and traffic operations. The proposed express lane improvements would provide direct connections from I-275 <two seventy-five> to the Veterans Expressway, Independence Parkway, Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa International Airport, the Westshore Business District, and Downtown Tampa. Please visit Stations 2 and 3 for more detailed project maps and visualizations.



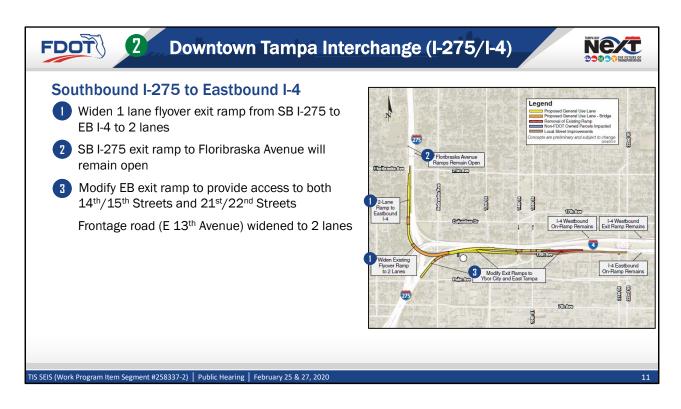
The L-P-A proposes the complete reconstruction of the Westshore Area Interchange to bring it up to modern standards. With the new configuration, the general purpose lane ramp connections to and from State Road 60 and I-275 <two seventy-five> will be improved, and the existing loop ramp will be replaced with a two-lane flyover ramp, two tolled express lanes will be added in each direction along I-275 <two seventy-five>, and a transit corridor will be preserved for future transit use.



A partial diverging diamond interchange at Reo Street will provide direct express lane access to southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> and new connections between Kennedy Boulevard and Cypress Street. New direct express lane connections will additionally be provided to/from I-275 <two seventy-five> to Himes Avenue. Tolled express lanes would extend to Ashley Drive/Tampa Street via direct connect ramps.

At a local level, the project will provide a significant benefit to the walk/bike network and traffic circulation in the Westshore Business District by reconnecting Reo Street/Kennedy Boulevard, Occident Street, and Trask Street beneath the interstate and help relieve traffic congestion on Westshore Boulevard.

FDOT is also looking at trail connectivity adjacent to the interstate throughout the corridor.

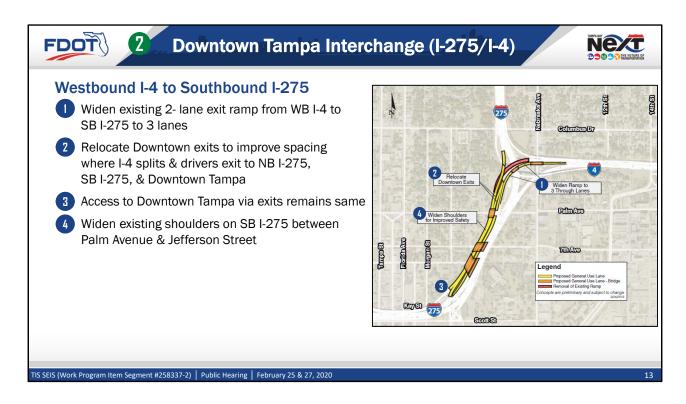


The improvements to the Downtown Tampa Interchange proposed as part of the L-P-A are intended to address the existing safety and operational issues. They encompass three movements and only require acquisition of seven additional properties.

The first movement is from southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> to eastbound I-4 <four>. This operational improvement includes widening the existing one lane flyover exit ramp from southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> to eastbound I-4 <four> to two lanes. Access to the local community would be provided via the existing exit ramp to Floribraska Avenue and a modified eastbound exit ramp providing access to both 14th/15th Streets and 21st/22nd Streets. This modified exit would allow drivers to access Ybor <eebor> City and East Tampa without having to merge onto I-4 <four>. Access to 21st/22nd Streets will be maintained from the modified 14th/15th Street exits via East 13th Avenue, the existing frontage road, which will be widened to two lanes between 15th and 21st Streets. Other ramps to/from I-275 <two seventy-five> at 21st/22nd Streets will remain.



The next movement consists of operational improvements to westbound I-4 <four> to northbound I-275 <two seventy-five>, including the widening of the existing one lane exit ramp from westbound I-4 <four> to northbound I-275 <two seventy-five> to two lanes. Additional merge lanes on northbound I-275 <two seventy-five> would be provided and the existing one lane exit ramp to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Boulevard would be widened to two lanes. The proposed improvements would maintain the existing entrance ramp from Floribraska Avenue.



The last movement consists of operation improvements to westbound I-4 <four> to southbound I-275 <two seventy-five>, including the widening of the southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> ramp from two lanes to three lanes through the interchange. The three lanes would join the two lanes from southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> to provide five lanes onto southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> before merging back to the existing four lanes at Jefferson Street. The exit to Downtown Tampa will be shifted to improve spacing. The exit ramp will still provide drivers with the same direct access to downtown like today. Shoulders would be widened on southbound I-275 <two seventy-five> between Palm Avenue and Jefferson Street to improve safety.



No Further Action Alternative



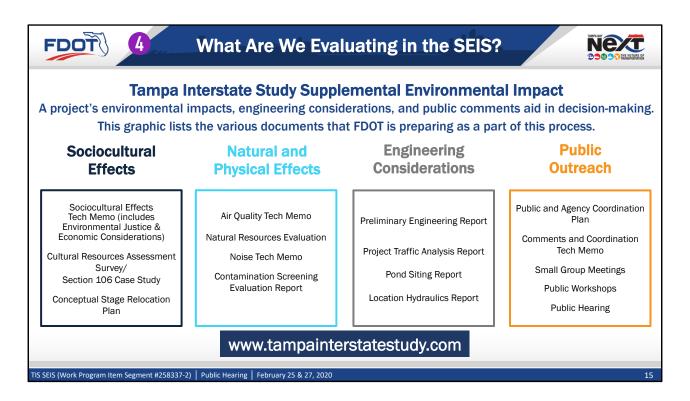
- Viable alternative throughout the study
- Existing transportation system + improvements of 1997 & 1999 Records of Decision that have NOT been constructed
- No-Build throughout study corridor except at Westshore Area Interchange where FHWA approved widening of outside lanes in 1999



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The No Further Action Alternative is considered a viable alternative throughout this study. This alternative is defined as the existing transportation system plus the improvements approved in the 1997 and 1999 Records of Decision that have not been constructed. These improvements include the construction of the general use lanes (or outer roadways) and associated ramps within the Westshore Area Interchange.



FDOT undertook a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives leading to the selection of the L-P-A by considering environmental and engineering factors, construction costs and right-of-way needs, and public input. Numerous draft documents have been prepared to date and are available for review at Station 4 and on the project website.

TIS Segment	TIS Se	TIS Segment 1A TIS Segment 2A TIS Segment :			gment 2B	TIS Segment 3A		TIS Segment 3B		
	No Further Action	Locally Preferred Alternative	No Further Action	Locally Preferred Alternative	No Further Action	Locally Preferred Alternative	No Further Action	Locally Preferred Alternative	No Further Action	Locally Preferred Alternative
	1	Alternative		s Transit Operation		Alternative		Alternative		Alternative
Provides Express Bus/BRT Opportunities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	TBD	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Maintains Transit Corridor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Supports Connections to Existing and Planned Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
				od Connections				-		71.72
Improves Existing Connections	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Provides New Connections	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
			Cultura	l Resources						
Historic Buildings within the Footprint (Potential Direct Effect)	0	0	0	0	0	Individual Property: 0 Contributing	0	0	0	0
Historic Properties Adjacent to the Footprint (Potential Indirect Adverse Visual Effect)		See E	valu	ation	Mati	rix	0	0	0	0
Archaeological Sites (Number Impacted)							0	0	0	0
		soard	TOF I	nore	ueta	IIIS				
Resources Potentially Directly Impacted							0	0	0	0
				rces Directly Imp	acted			77.0		
EASTERN CO.					_					
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number		0	O Natura	I Resources				-		
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres)	0	20.35	O Natura O	Resources:	0	0.6	0	0	0	0
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment)	O None	0 20.35 Minimal	O Natura O None	I Resources O None	0 None	0.6 Minimal	0 None	0 None	0 None	0 Minimal
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres)	O None O	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34	O Natura O None O	O None O	O None O	0.6 Minimal	0 None 0	O None O	O None O	0 Minimal 0
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment)	O None	0 20.35 Minimal	O Natura O None	I Resources O None	0 None	0.6 Minimal	0 None	0 None	0 None	0 Minimal
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres) Threatened & Endangered Species	O None O	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34	O Natura O None O Low	O None O	O None O	0.6 Minimal	0 None 0	O None O	O None O	0 Minimal 0
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres) Threatened & Endangered Species	O None O	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34	O Natura O None O Low	O None O Low	O None O	0.6 Minimal	0 None 0	O None O	O None O	0 Minimal 0
Wetlandi/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres) Threatened & Endangered Species (Probability of Effect - Low/Medium/High)	O None O Low	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34 Low	O Natura O None O Low	O None O Low	O None O	0.6 Minimal 0 Low	0 None 0 Low	O None O Low	O None O Low	0 Minimal 0 Low
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres) Threatened & Endangered Species (Probability of Effect - Low/Medium/Hight) Number of Impacted Receptors and Properties Contamination Sites	O None O Low	20.35 Minimal 14.34 Low	Natura O None O Low Physica O	None O Low Resources O	O None O O	0.6 Minimal 0 Low 279	O None O Low	O None O Low	O None O Low	O Minimal O Low
Wetlands/Seagnases (acres) Ploodplains (Petential for Encroachment) Surface Waters (acres) Threatened & Endangered Species Probability of Effect - Low/Medium/High) Probability of Effect - Low/Medium/High) Number of Impacted Receptors and Properties Contamination Sites (Number Rated High or Medium Risk) Number of Parcels Impacted/Already Purchased/ Remaining to Purchase	0 None 0 Low	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34 Low 9 14	O Natura O None O Low Physics O Right-of- 321/321/0	Resources O None O Low at Resources O 11	0 None 0 0 0	0.6 Minimal 0 Low 279 11 High 20 Medium	0 None 0 Low 0 0 270/270/0	0 None 0 Low 0 5 High 11 Medium 270/270/0	0 None 0 Low 0 0 108/108/0	O Minimal O Low O S High 1 Medium
Wetlands/Seagrasses (acres) Todgiblans (Potential for Encroachment) Furface Waters (acres) Threatened & Enclargement Species Probability of Effect - Low/Medium/High) Rumber of Impacted Receptors and Properties Contamination Sites Number Rates High or Medium (Risk)	O None O Low	0 20.35 Minimal 14.34 Low	Natura O None O Low Physica O Right-of-	Resources O None O Low at Resources O 11	O None O O	0.6 Minimal 0 Low 279 11 High 20 Medium	O None O Low	O None O Low O S High	O None O Low	O Minimal O Low O S High 1 Medium

FDOT has prepared an evaluation matrix that compares the anticipated impacts associated with the No Further Action Alternative to the L-P-A, including potential effects on environmental resources, right-of-way, and construction cost estimates. Please refer to the display board in Station 4 for more information about potential impacts.

Project Phase	FDOT Tentative Five-Year Work Program (FY 2020/2021 – FY 2024/2025)							
	I-275 from Howard Frankland Bridge to North of Hillsborough River	Downtown Tampa Interchange (I-275/I-4) Operational Improvements	I-4 from East of 22 nd Street to East of 50 th Street					
Design	Included in Construction	Not Currently Funded	No Further Improvements Included In LPA*					
Right-of-Way	Funded (2020/2021 – 2023/2024)	Not Currently Funded	No Further Improvements Included In LPA*					
Construction Start	Funded (2023/2024)	Not Currently Funded	No Further Improvements Included In LPA*					
	ed Alternative							

This table reflects funding for the various phases of improvements described in the Draft S-E-I-S. Right-of-way acquisition is ongoing for the segment of I-275 <two seventy-five> from the Howard Frankland Bridge to north of the Hillsborough River, which includes the reconstruction of the Westshore Area Interchange. For this same segment, construction is funded in Fiscal Year 2023/2024. No funding is currently allocated for the Downtown Tampa Interchange operational improvements.

Project Kick Off/Notice of Intent to Prepare SEIS	January 17, 2017
, ,	
Concept Development	Spring/Summer 2017
1 st Public Workshop	October 2017
Concept Refinement	Winter 2017/2018
2 nd Public Workshop	May 2019
Notice of Public Availability/FHWA Approves Draft SEIS	January 27, 2020
Public Hearing	February 25 & 27, 2020
Finalize SEIS Documents	Spring/Summer 2020
NEPA Complete (Final SEIS/Record of Decision)	Fall 2020

This public hearing is being held tonight to present the results of the Draft S-E-I-S and to formally record all comments received on the document and recommended L-P-A. The Federal Highway Administration and F-D-O-T will make the final determination on the L-P-A and finalize the S-E-I-S documents after public and agency comments received at the public hearing have been fully considered and evaluated. F-D-O-T anticipates that the Federal Highway Administration will issue a combined Final S-E-I-S and Record of Decision by the end of 2020.

FDOT District Seven 11201 N McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 975-6000	Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Public Library 1505 Nebraska Avenue Tampa, Florida 33602 (813) 273-3652	West Tampa Branch Library 2312 W Union Street Tampa, FL 33607 (813) 273-3652	Hillsborough Community College Dale Mabry Campus Library DLRC Building (2 nd & 3 rd Floors 4001 W Tampa Bay Boulevard Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 253-7381	
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Sat-Sun Closed	Hours: Mon-Tue 10:00 a.m8:00 p.m. Wed-Sat 10:00 a.m6:00 p.m. Sun Closed	Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Sun Closed	Hours: Mon-Thu 8:00 a.m8:00 p.m. Fri 8:00 a.m2:00 p.m. Sat 8:00 a.m2:00 p.m. Sun Closed	

Project documents are available for review tonight at Station 4 and have been available on the project website and at four locations in Tampa, including the F-D-O-T District Seven office, the Robert W. Saunders Senior Public Library, the West Tampa Branch Library, and the Hillsborough Community College Dale Mabry Campus Library. The documents have been on display at these locations since February 4th <fourth> and will be available until March 12th <twelfth>.



How To Make A Comment





Court Reporters

- Provide verbal comment to the Court Reporters
- Provide comment during formal public portion beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Comment Form

- Complete a Comment Form and drop it in comment box tonight
- Complete a Comment Form and mail it to the pre-printed address postmarked by March 12, 2020

 Email



Online

 Submit electronically from the comments page at: www.tampainterstatestudy.com

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D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us

There are several ways to make a comment as part of the public hearing record. You can speak directly to either of the two court reporters who are here this evening anytime during the open house. A court reporter will also record verbatim the comments stated during the formal portion of the public hearing, which begins at 6:00 p.m. Please complete a speaker card and give it to an F-D-O-T representative at the sign-in table to indicate your interest to speak publicly. You may also complete a comment form located at the comments table and drop it in one of the comment boxes or mail written comments to the address provided on the back of the form. Additionally, comments may be submitted electronically through the comments page on the project website at www.tampainterstatestudy.com w-w-w dot tampa interstate study dot com> or to D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us w-w-w dot STATE dot F-L dot U-S>. All comments must be received or postmarked by Thursday, March 12 two D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us D7-TIS@dot.state.fl.us D7-TIS@dot.state.



This concludes the presentation for the T-I-S S-E-I-S. Thank you for attending tonight's public hearing. We appreciate your participation. Remember to be alert today. Alive tomorrow. Safety doesn't happen by accident.